

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 55, 57, 58, 60-62, and 66-76 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the amended and new independent claims add and remove limitations that change the claimed invention such that it is an independent or distinct invention from the one previously claimed.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 55, 57, 58, 60-62, and 66-76 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on 5/23/08 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): as noted above, all pending claims have been withdrawn. Therefore, since there are no claims to examine, this amendment is non-responsive. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the

omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to David A. Zarneke at is (571)-272-1937. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 AM-6 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Baumeister can be reached on (571)-272-1722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David A. Zarneke/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2891
8/12/08